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GENEVA FOR USINF

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MNUC, PARM, PR, UR, NATO
 SUBJECT: INF: FRENCH NON-PAPER ON INF AND FRENCH FORCES

REF: USNATO 129

1. (C) BEGIN SUMMARY: FRENCH PERMREP MERILLON
 CAUTIONED ALLIES AT JANUARY 11 PERMREPS LUNCH ON THE NEED

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TO STAND FIRM ON THE NON-INCLUSION OF FRENCH FORCES
IN INF. MERILLON HAD PRIVATELY SIGNALLED TO US
EARLIER HIS CONCERNS ON THIS MATTER, AS REPORTED
REFTEL. SEPTTEL ON PERMREPS LUNCH CONTAINS MERILLON'S
ORAL COMMENTS. PARA 2 BELOW CONTAINS THE TEXT
OF FRENCH NON-PAPER WHICH MERILLON DISTRIBUTED WHICH
OUTLINES THE FAMILIAR FRENCH RATIONALE:

- -- FRANCE REJECTS ITS FORCES BEING TAKEN INTO
- ACCOUNT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN THE US-SOVIET
- NEGOTIATIONS;
- -- FRENCH FORCES SERVE A DIFFERENT STRATEGIC
- DOCTRINE, NAMELY "DISSUASION BY THE WEAK OF
- THE STRONG," AND THUS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED PART
- OF NATO FORCES NOR OF NATO STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE
- RESPONSE;
- -- THE SMALL SIZE OF FRENCH FORCES REPRESENTS
- THE MINIMUM ESSENTIAL NECESSARY FOR A CREDIBLE
- DETERRENT. NEGOTIATING REDUCTIONS WOULD CAUSE
- THE FRENCH DETERRENT FORCE TO LOSE ITS
- CREDIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF FRENCH NON-PAPER (TEXT IS UNCLASSIFIED)

LA FRANCE REJETTE TOUTE IDEE DE PRISE EN COMPTE
DIRECTE OU INDIRECTE DANS LES NEGOCIATIONS SOVIETO-
AMERICAINES DE SES SYSTEMS NUCLEAIRES QUI NE SAURAIENT
ETRE COMPARES OU ASSIMILES A TELLE OU TELLE CATEGORIE
DE FORCES D'UN AUTRE PAYS. L'ENSEMBLE DE NOS MOYENS
FORME UN TOUT INDISSOCIABLE FACE A LA MENACE GLOBALE QUE
REPRESENTENT TOUS LES MOYENS DE L'ADVERSAIRE POTENTIEL.

NOS FORCES NUCLEAIRES SONT AU SERVICE D'UNE DOCTRINE
QUI NOUS EST PROPRE, CELLE DE LA DISSUASION DU FAIBLE AU
FORT. INDEPENDANTES, ELLES NE SONT EN AUCUNE
MANIERE SUBSTITUABLES A CELLES DE L'OTAN. COMPTE TENU
DE LEUR NATURE, ELLES NE SAURAIENT REMPLIR LES MISSIONS
QUE NOS ALLIES ASSignent AUX FUTURS MISSILES DE L'OTAN
DANS LE CADRE DE LA STRATEGIE DE LA RIPOSTE GRADUEE.

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AU DEMEURANT, LE NIVEAU DE NOTRE ARMEMENT NUCLEAIRE, HORS
DE PROPORTION AVEC CELUI DES DEUX GRANDS, EST DETERMINE
PAR LA NOTION DE SUFFISANCE, AFIN D'ASSURER LA CREDIBILITE
DE NOS FORCES. NOUS N'AVONS PAS LES MOYENS, SAUF A
TOMBER EN-DECA DU SEUIL DE CREDIBILITE, DE NEGOCIER NE
PUT-CE QU'UNE PARTIE DE CELLES-CI. END TEXT. BENNETT

END OF MESSAGE

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